SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL TIME VIDEO PRODUCTION AND MULTICASTING

Abstract

An integrated, fully automated video production system that provides a video director with total control over all of the video production devices used in producing and broadcasting a show. Such devices include, but are not limited to, cameras, robotic pan/tilt heads, video tape players and recorders (VTRs), video servers and virtual recorders, character generators, still stores, digital video disk players (DVDs), audio mixers, digital video effects (DVE), video switchers, and teleprompting systems. The video production system provides an automation capability that allows the video director to pre-produce a show, review the show in advance of "air time," and then, with a touch of a button, produce the live show. In one embodiment, the invention provides a video production system having a processing unit in communication with one or more of the video production devices mentioned above. The processing unit displays on a monitor graphical controls for controlling the variety of video production devices that it is in communication with. A video director uses a keyboard and mouse that are interfaced with the processing unit to activate the graphical controls, and thereby remotely control the video production devices from one location. The processing unit also enables the video director to automate the production of a show. According to one embodiment, the video director pre-produces the show, defines a set of video production commands or instructions (hereafter "transition macro") to be executed by the processing unit, and then, by activating a control button displayed by the processing unit, the video director instructs the processing unit to execute the transition macro. Each video production command in a transition macro directs the processing unit to transmit in series and/or parallel one or more control commands to one or more of the video production devices when required.

A273-14.wpd

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